

REMARKS

Please enter the amendments to the claims in this supplemental preliminary amendment, which is supplemental to the preliminary amendment filed on September 20, 2006. The amendments have been made to bring the application in line with the corresponding European application.

The applicants' respectfully assert that amending claim 1 to incorporate the limitations previously recited in claim 44 (now canceled) gives claim 1 novelty over the prior art documents US 2002/179166 (hereinafter "US'166") and EP312321, which were cited in the IDS filed on September 20, 2006.

With respect to US'166. US'166 does not disclose the feature recited by claim 1 that the external helical formation has a different helical angle from the internal protrusion. Referring to document US'166 (Figure 7A), on the inference that wire 13a is analogous to the internal helical protrusion and wire 14a to the external helical formation, indicates that both helical structures follow the same helical axis. In paragraph 54 of US'166, the wires 13a-c and 14a-c are said to be "...orientated in the same direction and more or less parallel..." Thus, the wires 13a-c and 14a-c have generally the same helix angle and there is no unambiguous disclosure of their having a different helix angle.

With respect to EP312321. In EP312321 (Figure 7), the external helix 21 corresponds exactly to the internal helix 11 due to the method of helix formation. Therefore, both helices follow identical paths rather than having different helical angles as stipulated in amended claim 1 of the instant application.

If there are remaining issues, the applicants respectfully request that Examiner telephone the applicants' attorney at 732-578-0103 x11 so that those issues can be resolved as quickly as possible.

Respectfully,
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